

Application No. 09/940,665
Response dated November 10, 2004
Reply to Office Action of August 10, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 20, 22, 24 and 26 are pending in this application, of which claim 1 has been amended, and claim 26 has been added. Claim 3 has been cancelled in this Response.

(1) Claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Kinsho et al. (U.S. 6,312,867). Claims 6 and 7 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kinsho et al. (U.S. 6,312,867 B1). Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 20, 22 and 24 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakanishi et al. (U.S. 6,537,726 B2) in view of Kinsho et al. (U.S. 6,312,867 B1) and Grober et al. (U.S. 6,376,149 B2).

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowed claim 3. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

(2) Claim 26 has been added, whose basis is found at page 9, lines 8-16. Neither of the cited references discloses a resin having a repeating unit having the combination of an acetal moiety and a site which is eliminated by an acid. In Polymer 23 of Kinsho et al., the repeating unit of an acetal moiety is positioned differently from the repeating unit of a site which is eliminated by an acid. The copolymer of Nakanishi et al., at col. 10, lines 7-17, pointed out by the Office Action, does not have any repeating units having the combination of an acetal moiety and a site which is eliminated by an acid. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

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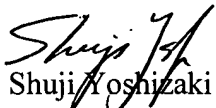
(3) In view of the above, claims 1, 2, 4-7, 20, 22, 24 and 26, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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